

## BOOK REVIEWS

BARRIE JUNIPER and DAVID J. MABBERLEY. 2006. **The Story of the Apple.** (ISBN: 0-88192-784-8, hbk.). Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 503-227-3070 fax, 1-800-327-5680). \$29.95, 240 pp., 20 color photos, 40 illustrations, 9 maps, 7" × 9".

Have you ever wondered where apples come from? Yes, those enjoyably crisp and juicy apples that we're told are as American as, well, apple pie. The answer has been provided in the new book entitled *The Story of the Apple* by authors Barrie Juniper and David Mabberley. *The Story of the Apple* is a richly researched book loaded with references to support the author's work. This well-documented history of the apples' origins and geographical dissemination throughout history also includes many beautiful images of the people, places and equipment involved; it contains a mixture of both color and black & white images.

The book begins by providing readers with the foundation of apple knowledge; i.e. the title of chapter one is "What are apples?" Chapter two, entitled "Origin of the apple," includes information on pollinators, scientific nomenclature, cropping phases and dispersal methods (bears and horses especially). The authors trace the origin of the sweet apples of today to the Tian Shan fruit forest in the mountains of Central Asia. In chapters three and four, the authors describe how early humans and animals interacted with apple fruit, wood and seeds; and include the history of grafting of fruit and apple trees throughout history. The fifth and sixth chapters focus on the movement of apples from Asia to Europe and into North America via land and sea routes. The fifth and sixth chapters also include information on the cultural influence of the apple in place names and family names, as well as in various cultural folklore. In chapter seven, an interesting history of apple cider and other apple preservation techniques used around the world is provided. The final chapter provides readers with an overview.

The authors have been very thorough in providing referenced information in this text; the end result requires readers to pay more attention to detail. For example readers must first keep in mind the different species the authors discuss: there are crab apples (*Malus sylvestris*) and more commonly known sweet apples (*Malus pumila*). However, such details are important to the points being made and add significantly to the valuable information provided in this text. This reader found the book especially interesting regarding the topics of fruit-tree grafting, use of the word apple (and non-English lingual equivalents) and apple folklore. Along with color plates of various apple species, the book contains many other interesting images; among them are black and white woodcuts of historic cider making equipment.

Apple historians, horticulturalists and enthusiasts will delight in *The Story of the Apple*. Authors Juniper and Mabberley have provided a well-researched history of the apple including the origins of the sweet apple as well the many uses of the apple fruit and wood in various cultures worldwide. Color plates, photographs and black and white images add significantly to understanding the importance of apples all over the world and throughout history. Explore *The Story of the Apple* and read about the extraordinary journey of the apple from Asia to every corner of the Earth.—Lee Luckeydoo, Herbarium, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

JIM KIMMEL (text) and JERRY TOUCHSTONE KIMMEL (photographs). 2006. **The San Marcos: A River's Story.** (ISBN 13: 978-1-58544-542-4, pbk.). Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** http://www.tamu.edu/upress/, 979-458-3982, 979-847-8752 fax). \$29.95, 155 pp., 184 color photos, 26 b/w photos, 1 drawing, 1 chart, 4 maps, 8<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" × 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>".

What do mastodons, treed Gypsy bears, Texas wildrice, blind salamanders, and Ralph the Swimming Pig have in common? They are all part of the story of the San Marcos River, an iconic river in Central Texas. Jim Kimmel's affectionate and detailed text and his wife Jerry's beautiful photos bring to life the natural and cultural history of a river whose headwaters are thought to be the site of some of the oldest human settlements - 12,000 years old – on the North American continent.

The book examines the San Marcos River from several perspectives: geology, geography, history, biology, and botany. It covers the river's history from the uplift that created the Balcones Fault millions of years ago, creating the conditions for the springs to issue, to the present day efforts to protect the Edwards Aquifer, which nourishes the river, from excessive pumping. The peoples who have lived, and live today, on its banks are brought to life. Native and endangered plants and animals as well as sometimes pesky nonnative species are discussed in the text and listed in the attractive appendices. The reader is left with an understanding and appreciation of the San Marcos river's beauty and diversity.

Jim Kimmel, one of Texas' most distinguished geographers, is a professor at Texas State University in San Marcos and directs the university's Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism. His family has lived in the San Marcos area for several generations. Jerry Touchstone Kimmel is a nationally known watercolor artist and accomplished photographer.

The reviewer, a former San Marcos resident, can almost feel the tingle of the 72° water on her toes as she writes this review. Hmm...a leisurely float from just below the dam at Spring Lake to Rio Vista Dam seems in order for this summer.—Penny McCook, Volunteer, Botanical Research institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.